

Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, and claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Office Action objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference characters not mentioned in the description: “104b” shown in Figure 4. The specification has been amended at page 12, line 8 in response to the Examiner’s comments. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to claim 6 because of informalities. Claim 6 has been amended in response to the Examiner’s comments. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

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The Office Action rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 5 recite a door configured to selectively open and close a storage space formed in a refrigerator body. Thus, Applicant is claiming a door, not a storage space. Further, the Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending claim 9. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,116,370 to Watkins. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite a drawer type door opening/closing structure for a refrigerator comprising, *inter alia*, at least one cover bracket protruding backward from the rear surface of the door and configured to completely cover a triangular space formed between the support frame, and the rear surface of the door, and the hinge connection when the door is opened. Watkins does not disclose or suggest such features, or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1 and 5.

That is, Watkins discloses a file cabinet, not a drawer type door opening/closing structure for a refrigerator. Further, as shown in Figure 1 of Watkins, element 23 asserted by the Examiner as corresponding to the claimed at least one cover bracket does not completely cover the triangular space formed between a rear surface of the door 17, the side wall 7, and the hinge plate 16 when the door 17 is opened.

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Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 over Watkins should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 4, 6-7, and 9 are allowable over Watkins at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 5, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 2,711,944 to Meek in view of Watkins. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserted that Meek teaches all of the claimed features except for "a door being capable of being pivoted about a lower end of said door; at least one support frame hingedly connected to a rear surface of the door thereby creating a hinge connection to allow the door to pivot about the lower end of said door and inherently capable of having a storage box for storing an object to the seated behind the door; and at least one cover bracket protruding backward from the rear surface of the door and configured to cover a gap between the support frame and the rear surface of the door and the hinge connection." The Examiner then asserted that Watkins discloses such features and concludes that "[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the door in the structure of Meek with the pivoting door taught by Watkins in order to allow objects to be more easily positioned within, and removed from the refrigerator, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed."

As set forth above, as shown in Figure 1 of Watkins, element 23 asserted by the Examiner as corresponding to the claimed at least one cover bracket does not completely cover the triangular space formed between a rear surface of the door 17, the side wall 7, and the hinge

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plate 16 when the door 17 is opened. Thus, Meek and Watkins, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of claims 10 and 11, or the respective claimed combination. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 10 and 11 over Meek and Watkins should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meek in view of Watkins and U.S. Patent No. 5,487,239 to Jenkins. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 3 and 8 are allowable over Meek and Watkins as these references taken alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest at least the claimed at least one cover bracket. Jenkins fails to overcome the deficiencies of Meek and Watkins, as it is merely cited for allegedly disclosing a door basket. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meek in view of Watkins and U.S. Patent No. 2,775,501 to Kylo. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 4 and 9 are allowable over Meek and Watkins as these references taken alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest at least the claimed at least one cover bracket. Kylo fails to overcome the deficiencies of Meek and Watkins, as it is merely cited for allegedly disclosing a tilting latch. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the

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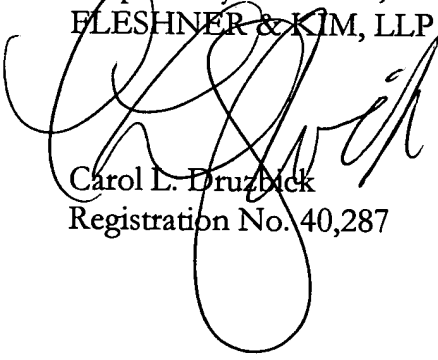
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application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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